



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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**PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR**

**VIRGINIA T. LODGE
COMMISSIONER**

September 18, 2008

Dear Child Care Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to remind you about a new law, Public Chapter 687, which requires child care providers to disseminate information to parents regarding immunizing their children against influenza (flu). Providers are required to hand out this information to parents of all enrolled children during the months of August and September of each year, beginning this year. The intent of the law is to educate parents regarding the benefits of immunizing children, ages six months to five years, against influenza.

We have included information about influenza immunization on the Child Care Services section of our web site: <http://www.tennessee.gov/humanserv>, which you may print and share with parents. Our site has links to a parent guide that is published by the Centers for Disease Control, and we have also enclosed a copy of this helpful form. You can also find the parent guide and up-to-date information on the CDC web site: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery/2008-09/parents_guide.htm

The National Association of Child Care Professionals and Families Fighting Flu, Inc. have also partnered to educate parents about the severity of influenza and the importance of immunizing children every year. For more information about their campaign, please encourage parents to visit <http://www.familiesfightingflu.org>. You may also call the National Association of Child Care Professionals to order "Prevent Flu – Get Vaccinated" posters. The toll free number is 1-800-537-1118.

Because this is a law, your Licensing Program Evaluator will be asking you to maintain documentation that you have given this information to parents each year, during the months of August and September. Please have parents sign and date a statement indicating that they have received information regarding influenza immunization. A sample statement can be found on the DHS Flu Information web page.

As always, we greatly appreciate the work you do to care for our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Virginia T. Lodge
Commissioner

VTL:jt

Enclosure

cc: Child Care Licensing Staff